In the Claims

The Applicant submits Claims 1-21 in accordance with Revised Format Now Permitted, and requests that independent claims 1, 11 and 15 be amended as indicated. Additionally, a mark-up of Claims 1, 11 and 15, as amended, is attached hereto.

1. (Currently Amended) A data protection device comprising:

a fire-resistant enclosure comprising an inner wall and an outer wall and having a thermally resistant material between the inner and outer wall, the inner wall defining an enclosure for housing an electronic data storage device therein, and having a closeable opening, said enclosure capable of protecting contents from environmental hazard;

at least one electrical connector within said enclosure for providing power inside said enclosure; and

at least one data link within said enclosure for providing data communication between inside said enclosure and outside said enclosure;

said at least one electrical connector and said at least one data link extending outside said enclosure for connection with at least one power source and at least one data source;

wherein said at least one electrical connector and said at least one data link extend between said inner and outer walls in such manner to substantially prevent an environmental hazard from affecting contents of said enclosure.

2. (Original) The data protection device of claim 1, further comprising said opening being selectively openable and closable by a user, and said opening being of sufficient size to allow insertion of at least one data storage device into said enclosure.

3. (Original) The data protection device of claim 1, wherein said contents of said enclosure may be continuously connected to said at least one power source and said at least one data source.

4. (Original) The data protection device of claim 1, wherein said environmental hazard includes fire.

5. (Original) The data protection device of claim 1, wherein said at least one electrical connector provides power inside said enclosure to said contents.

6. (Original) The data protection device of claim 1, wherein said at least one data transmitter provides a data link between said contents and said at least one data source.

7. (Original) The data protection device of claim 5, wherein said contents comprise at least one data storage device.

8. (Original) The data protection device of claim 6, wherein said contents comprise at least one data storage device.

9. (Original) The data protection device of claim 1, wherein said contents comprise at least one data storage device.

10. (Original) The data protection device of claim 1, wherein said at least one data transmitter comprises at least one infrared data transmitter.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting an electronic data storage device from environmental hazard, comprising:

enclosing said electronic data storage device in a fire-resistant housing capable of protecting said data storage device from environmental hazard, comprising an inner wall and an outer wall and having a thermally resistant material between the inner and outer wall, the inner wall defining an enclosure for housing the electronic data storage device therein, and an

electrical conductor extending between said inner and outer walls to provide a power source within said housing and an electronic data link extending between said inner and outer walls to provide a data communication link within said housing for receiving electronic data within said housing, in such manner to resist damage to the electronic data within the housing from an environmental hazard;

connecting said data storage device inside said enclosure to a power source outside said enclosure via said electrical conductor; and

connecting said data storage device inside said enclosure to a data source outside said enclosure via said electronic data link.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said environmental hazard includes fire.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising providing a continuous connection between said data storage device inside said enclosure and said power source and said data source.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said connection between said data storage device and said data source comprises an infrared connection.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting electronic data from environmental hazard, comprising:

placing an electronic data storage device within a fire-protected housing, the housing comprising an inner wall and an outer wall and having a thermally resistant material between the inner and outer wall, the inner wall defining an enclosure for housing an electronic data storage device therein, and an electrical conductor extending between said inner and outer walls to provide a power source within said housing and an electronic data link extending between said

inner and outer walls to provide a data communication link within said housing for receiving electronic data within said housing, in such manner to resist damage to the electronic data within the housing from an environmental hazard;

completely enclosing said electronic data storage device in the housing to protect said electronic storage device from environmental hazard;

connecting said electronic storage device to a power source outside said enclosure;

connecting said electronic storage device to a data source outside said enclosure; and

storing data on said electronic storage device on an on-going basis within the housing.

16. (Original) The method of protecting electronic data according to claim 15, wherein said environmental hazard includes fire.

17. (Original) The method of protecting electronic data according to claim 15, further comprising providing a continuous connection between said stored electronic data inside said enclosure and said power source and said data source.

18. (Original) The method of protecting electronic data according to claim 15, further comprising storing said electronic data on a data storage device.

19. (Original) The method of protecting electronic data according to claim 18, further comprising connecting said data storage device to said power source outside said enclosure.

20. (Original) The method of protecting electronic data according to claim 18, further comprising connecting said data storage device to said data source outside said enclosure.

21. (Original) The method of protecting electronic data according to claim 15, wherein said connecting said enclosure to a data source outside said enclosure comprises an infrared connection.